

Tito's condition still dangerous

BEIJING, Yugoslavia Feb. 21 (AP)—President Tito's condition today that the gravely ill Yugoslav leader's condition is still dangerous. In Belgrade, it was disclosed that the 2 man in the Yugoslav state government had for the first sent his own messages to foreign governments. Government spokesman Miro Kalezic said President Tito had been too ill to messages he himself had approved in early February for ng to key world leaders. Mr. Kalezic said that Tito instead authorised Mr. Lazar Kolisevski, vice president of Yugos collective state presidency, to send the messages to leaders U.S. President Carter, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev Cuban President Fidel Castro. At least some of the messages accompanied by messages from Mr. Kolisevski himself, Mr. K said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تلغيم يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

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AMMAN, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1980 — RABIA THANI 6, 1400

McHenry backs Tunisia independence

TUNIS, Feb. 21 (AP)—American U.N. Ambassador Donald McHenry discussed the escalating tensions between Tunisia and Libya today in a meeting with Prime Minister Medi Nouria. "We wish to re-emphasize at this time our deep interest in the independence and integrity of Tunisia," he said after the meeting. "We would view with concern any outside interference in the affairs of Tunisia." He had just discussed with Prime Minister Nouria the situation "created by the recent attack in Gafsa and the threatening language that has since been directed at Tunisia by the Libyan government." Mr. McHenry was referring to the attack on police and army barracks in the phosphate mining town of Gafsa late last month by a group of about 30 commandos that the Tunisian government claims were supported and trained by Libya. Forty-one persons were killed before the attack finally was put down.

Regional Briefs

IASCUS, Feb. 21 (R) — Palestinian commandos said they killed or wounded several Israelis with a time bomb at Kiryat Gat, 10 of Beersheba, today. The Palestine News Agency (WAPA) said a commando spokesman was saying the blast at a bus station destroyed one vehicle. In Tel Aviv police claimed there were no injuries in the explosion.

AVIV, Feb. 21 (R) — Another round of negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the United States on Palestinian autonomy ended here last night without significant progress having been achieved, official Israeli sources said. The three delegations met to meet again next week in Europe. The location for the talks has not yet been announced but sources said that London has nearly been ruled out.

IRAN, Feb. 21 (R) — Fierce fighting with fists and knives ended at the Tehran University campus today during a rally by 60,000 radical Islamic Mujahedin guerrilla supporters. The rallies said scuffles began during a speech by former guerrilla leader Masoud Rajavi, when Muslim extremists attacked the Mujahedin supporters. Revolutionary guards fired several rounds of automatic rifle fire into the air trying to separate the rival groups, but the clashes spread and several people were injured, witnesses said. One young man, wielding a long knife, went into the crowd, wounding at least five people, they said. The rallies said the shaven-headed Muslim extremists, known as Hesbollahi (supporters of the Party of God), numbered about 7,000. They specialise in attacking meetings of radical groups such as the Mujahedin and radical Fedayeen guerrilla elements, both of which played a major role in the struggle to overthrow the Shah. Mr. Rajavi was addressing the rally about months parliamentary elections, for which his movement has up more than 150 candidates.

AVIV, Feb. 21 (R) — An advance party of 23 diplomats led today to the Egyptian embassy which opens in Tel Aviv next week. Dr. Mohammad Al Husander, who will serve as ambassador, said on arrival at Ben Gurion airport: "The hand extended by Egypt for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." The ambassador, Mr. Saad Murrada, is due Monday and will present his credentials to Israeli President Yitzhak Navon in occupied Jerusalem on Wednesday. The Egyptian embassy will be housed temporarily in a Tel Aviv hotel.

IRAN, Feb. 21 (R) — British Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hurd plans to visit Kuwait early next month for talks expected to cover the latest Middle East developments, the Afghan crisis and other major world issues. Informed British sources said today that Mr. Hurd's visit, which may also include other Gulf states, would be announced shortly. Mr. Hurd, who as junior minister deals especially with Middle East affairs, has visited as countries in the region recently for meetings with government ministers. After visiting the Gulf area last month, the secretary of state said in a speech in London that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan "is seen by the neighbouring countries as a direct threat to the peace and stability of the whole region," he then declared.

RAIN, Feb. 21 (R) — King Khalid of Saudi Arabia today visited a group of religious leaders at the hospital in Riyadh where he is resting after feeling unwell, the official Saudi Press Agency said. Health Minister Hussein Al Jazairi said yesterday the monarch was overtired and needed a few days' rest. King Khalid, 67, was taken to the King Faisal Hospital in the Saudi capital on Sunday. Dr. Jazairi said the king's illness was the result of overwork and strain and had no connection with heart operations he had in 1972 and 1978.

ALPINDI, Feb. 21 (R) — A letter from Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat was delivered to President Jinnah today by the PLO's new representative to Pakistan, Khair Al Din Abdul Rahman, a government press communique said. The communique did not disclose the contents of the letter, handed to the president during a courtesy call by Mr. Rahman.

DHABI, Feb. 21 (R) — Japanese special envoy Sunao Iida said today his country would work to convince the United States not to intervene in the Gulf with military force. Mr. Iida, who is touring the Middle East and Asia as a special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, told a press conference Japan believed the Gulf countries were able to defend themselves. But he added Japan was ready to work together with the United States and Europe to provide Gulf countries with any they wanted. He said Japan believed any permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must guarantee the Palestinian people the right to decide its own future. But he declined to say whether it would soon recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative. The United Arab Emirates is the first stop on Mr. Iida's 25-day tour which will also take him to Iraq, Oman, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, India and Pakistan. He later left for Baghdad.

IRAN, Feb. 21 (R) — Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council has today issued a massive grant for investment to cut unemployment. Ayan newspaper reported today. It quoted Mr. Mohammad Ali Bahonar, a member of the council, as saying that the 10 million rial (\$143 million) grant would be invested in distributive production cooperatives. No official figures are available for number of jobs, but informed sources put it at about 200,000. President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr, who yesterday presided over a long combined meeting of the Revolutionary Council and the cabinet which dealt chiefly with unemployment, told officials government-general today that they must create productive jobs. In a message carried by the official Pars News Agency, the president said banks would grant loans to the projects for development projects which would boost production.

RTOUH, Feb. 21 (R) — Chevron Oil Company of Sudan announced today that one of its exploratory wells in southwestern Sudan was producing 2,900 barrels a day, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. The firm, a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevron Oil of California, has been searching for oil in the Sudan for the past five years. The company was planning to drill at the well located about 750 kilometres southwest of Khartoum. The announced production rate of 2,900 barrels a day is relatively small.

AVIV, Feb. 21 (R) — Mayors of several Arab towns on the Israeli-occupied West Bank have received letters from the Paris-based World Union of Twin Towns inviting them to join the organisation, West Bank sources said today. The sources said the 11 had approached representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Paris before sending the invitations. The PLO was one of the towns joining the union, the sources said. The letters said that if the towns agreed to join, the union would give them to be twinned with towns in Western Europe. The union would enable West Bank towns to end their present isolation from the rest of the world and to attract investment from the West.

Israel accuses Britain of trying to disrupt peace, placate PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 21 (Agencies) — Israeli Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin today accused Britain of trying to disrupt the Israeli-Egyptian peace process by making a diplomatic initiative to placate the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In an address to the Hebrew Union College here, Professor Yadin joined the growing chorus of Israeli resentment over British ideas on creating a revised version of Security Council Resolution 242, the standard United Nations formula for Middle East peace. "Britain did not support Camp David (the Camp David summit accord of 1978) and is now trying to disrupt the peace process," he said.

Opposition to the British idea was expressed earlier this week by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who, according to Israeli officials, complained about it to the retiring British ambassador to Israel, Sir John Mason.

Among other senior officials who have attacked the plan was Mr. Yosef Clechman, the foreign ministry director-general who was meeting in London today with Israeli ambassadors from all over Europe. A main subject of the meeting, according to officials here, was to devise a counter-strategy to the British plan.

The British sponsored Resolution 242 after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Leading Arab countries accepted it because it specified Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

Israel accepted it because it did not state clearly just how much Arab land should be given up and because it spoke of the right of all Middle East states to live within "secure and recognised boundaries."

The PLO did not accept the resolution because it made no reference to the Palestinian question beyond a brief call for "a just settlement of the refugee problem."

In London, British officials said today Britain remains convinced of the need to supplement Resolution 242 to take more account of Palestinian rights. But they said that the British government had not taken a decision on any course of action to take.

British officials, answering reporters' questions, today said that Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington had told the U.N. General Assembly last September that Resolution 242 took no account of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinians which went well beyond their status as refugees.

Lord Carrington then added: "Nor does it take any account of the Palestinians' belief that they are a separate people with a right to their homeland. This, I believe, is an area in which Resolution 242 may be supplemented: Not, I emphasise, replaced, amended or distorted, but supplemented to meet this point."

The British proposal, as understood by Israeli officials, is to introduce new wording making a

clear reference to the right of Palestinians to determine their own future.

The Israeli fear is that such a revision could induce the PLO leadership to embrace the resolution as a whole and thereby open the way for a United States-Palestinian dialogue.

Mr. Begin and his ministers have repeatedly insisted they would never enter negotiations with the PLO which they describe as an "organisation of murderers" dedicated to the destruction of the Zionist state.

The administration of President Carter has made it plain it will not deal with the PLO while it refuses to recognise Israel's right to exist. During the past three years, Mr. Carter's aides have made several efforts to encourage PLO acceptance of Resolution 242. U.S. officials have said that such acceptance could constitute Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist, thereby making the PLO eligible for negotiations.

U.S. efforts in this direction have been blocked by Israeli opposition. Last August, Mr. Andrew Young resigned as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations after a revelation that he had been making contacts with Palestinians.

Late last year, British Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hurd upset Mr. Begin during a visit to Israel when he expressed the British view that the PLO was moving increasingly away from violence and towards conventional politics.

Vance fails to win French support over Afghanistan

PARIS, Feb. 21 (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance made no apparent headway today in persuading France that tough retaliation is the right western response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Franco-American differences over the appropriate reaction to the Afghanistan crisis were acknowledged in public statements by both sides after Mr. Vance conferred with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

Mr. Vance told correspondents after four hours of talks with the French foreign minister that the two governments shared similar views both on the origins of the Afghanistan crisis and on their objectives in dealing with it. "There were some differences between us on the actions to be taken in response to the problem, but we will be pursuing those in further consultations between the two of us and our associates," Mr. Vance said. The secretary of state described his talks as "very useful and open."

Among West European countries, France has been especially reluctant to take specific measures against the Soviet Union. While condemning Soviet involvement in Afghanistan, French ministers have stressed the importance of keeping dialogue with the Soviet Union alive to promote East-West détente.

Both Mr. Vance and French government officials declined to describe the nature of the differences between the two governments, but these were exposed in an unusually blunt speech the previous evening by U.S. Ambassador Arthur A. Hartman.

Mr. Hartman said U.S. sanctions, such as reducing grain sales, withholding high technology and moves to boycott the Moscow Olympics, were fully justified. "Some in Europe criticise our actions as inappropriate. I am still waiting for a list of appropriate actions. Try to imagine the situation if there had been no American reaction... Those in Moscow anxious to project power and unconvinced of the cost would have drawn the conclusion that their gamble had paid — and could be tried again with impunity."

U.S. officials said the ambassador was busy revising his speech in consultation with the state department right up to the last moment before his appearance at the Paris American Club. The Secretary of State was in



Cyrus Vance

Bonn and Rome yesterday and flew today to London to complete his West European tour.

In Washington, U.S. officials today expressed disappointment at what they saw as footdragging, particularly by West Germany, on the Moscow Olympics boycott proposed by President Carter.

The officials also took a cautious view of suggestions, endorsed by European Common Market foreign ministers in Rome this week, for some form of neutralisation of Afghanistan in exchange for a pullout of Soviet troops.

The U.S. defence department said today there were 70,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan instead of the 90,000 it estimated previously but this did not mean Moscow was pulling troops out.

Pentagon spokesman Thomas Ross said previous estimates had assumed that all the Soviet divisions in Afghanistan were at full strength but it had since been learned that some were not.

Mr. Ross said that apart from the 70,000 Soviet troops in the country there were 30,000 along the Soviet border with Afghanistan.

After Secretary Vance's visit to Bonn yesterday, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said he would delay a firm decision on boycotting the summer Olympics in Moscow until late May. This contrasted with the U.S. position that since the Soviet Union had not withdrawn its troops from Afghanistan by the Feb. 20 deadline set by President Carter, the U.S. commitment to a boycott was irrevocable.

President Carter publicly raised the idea of a neutral Afghanistan

at a press conference last week. The idea had previously been raised privately by Canadian diplomats, officials said.

The President suggested that following a Soviet troop withdrawal, a United Nations peacekeeping force should be established in Afghanistan, possibly supplied by Muslim nations.

Officials said that when Common Market ministers rushed to embrace the idea, Washington was left with an embarrassing choice of either endorsing it or appearing to repudiate a suggestion that had been broached by the president. As a result, they gave it a cautious welcome.

The notion that Moscow would now pull its troops out of Afghanistan and turn it into a new Austria, with internationally guaranteed neutrality, was unrealistic for the short term, officials said.

The state department said yesterday that neutralisation was interesting and worth exploring but many details remained to be worked out and much study would be needed before it could become a formal western plan.

Hussein, Ceausescu express concern over world tension

BUCHAREST, Feb. 21 (Agencies)—Romania and Jordan have expressed concern over a deterioration in international relations and growing tension endangering détente, the Romanian News Agency Agerpres reported.

The agency said Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and His Majesty King Hussein spoke out at a dinner in Bucharest last night against aggressive policies and called for the peaceful solution of conflicts.

King Hussein, who arrived in Bucharest yesterday for a three-day official visit, called for the exercise of restraint "especially when the occupation of other states is aimed at". He praised Romania's "efficient role" in the Middle East and its efforts at the United Nations.

Mr. Ceausescu said disputes should be settled by negotiation. He called for "the complete renunciation of a policy of using or threatening force."

Mr. Ceausescu and King Hussein both said they supported the creation of an independent Palestinian state, Agerpres said.

The two leaders also called for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, stressing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

King Hussein said, "The interests of people, of the whole mankind, are to develop international relations by observing the principles of sovereignty, peaceful coexistence among all states, restraint from using force in interstate relations, especially when the occupation of other states is aimed at."

Official talks between His Majesty the King and President Ceausescu were resumed at the state council's palace in Bucharest today.

The meeting was attended by members of the Jordanian and Romanian sides to the talks. Following the talks, the Romanian president accompanied King Hussein on a visit to one of the factories which produce petrochemical materials.

Earlier, the king received the mayor of Bucharest who presented him with the golden key of the city.

After that, King Hussein and the accompanying delegation visited the monument of the heroes of freedom and socialism in Romania where he laid a wreath.

This afternoon, His Majesty paid a visit to the Aug. 23rd sports centre where he witnessed a gymnastics show in which famous gymnast Nadia Comaneci took part. King Hussein expressed his admiration and appreciation of the high-level of sports by bestowing on the Romanian gymnasts represented by Miss Comaneci the Al Kawkab medal of the First Degree.

The King is accompanied on his visit by Prime Minister Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and His Majesty's military secretary.

Iranian students dismiss American hopes for early hostages' release

TEHRAN, Feb. 21 (R)—Radical students holding 49 hostages at the occupied U.S. embassy today dismissed as "foolish expectation" American hopes that the captives could be freed before the deposed Shah is returned to face trial in Iran.

Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh was meanwhile preparing a report for the ruling Revolutionary Council on preparations for a U.N.-sponsored probe into the Shah's rule, sources close to the council said.

During the night, revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on the nation to hold out for the extradition of the Shah. The 79-year-old ayatollah also paid tribute to "our dear youth who... by their movement have thrown the enemies of religion off the scene"—a remark taken to include the embassy students who have sworn to follow the ayatollah's line unwaveringly.

Ayatollah Khomeini's message seemed bound to reinforce resistance to a compromise on the hostage issue.

The students' statement, which gained extra prominence by being broadcast on the state radio, said America must return "the runaway Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi" — now in Panama — together with his property.

"The more delay in this connection, the more the anti-human rights nature of America will be known to the people of the world. "If the Shah is not extradited, any expectation of America about the reconsideration of the situation of the hostages is a foolish expectation."

The United States and U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim both hope that the commission to investigate Iran's grievances will lead to the release of the hostages, held since last Nov. 4.

Although few details were available, government officials in Iran were believed to be holding intense discussions over the exact programme of the U.N. panel.

Foreign ministry spokesman Nasir-o-Sadat Salami told Reuters that Iran had collected documents to show the commission. "The object of Iran is to show that America had a share in the crimes of the Shah and it was America which ordered the Shah what to do. America is the cause. The Shah was a servant of America."

Secretary-General Waldheim said yesterday no deadline had been set for freeing the hostages, now in their 110th day of captivity. Iranian leaders have said several times that the holding of the enquiry will not lead automatically to their release.

Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh said today the delay in the commission's arrival was not linked with his remarks separating the enquiry from the hostages' release. "From the very beginning we had informed the United Nations and the commission about our views in this respect," he told the official Pars News Agency.

Meanwhile, the Algerian co-chairman of the U.N. commission waiting in Geneva to go to Tehran to investigate Iranian charges against the deposed Shah has returned to New York, a U.N. spokesman said today.

Ambassador Mohammad Bedjaoui left Geneva last night, but

restraint from using force in interstate relations, especially when the occupation of other states is aimed at."

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Ayatollah Khomeini

will be back in time to leave for Tehran with the other four members of the commission at the weekend, the spokesman said he expected that Mr. Bedjaoui, who is Algeria's permanent representative to the U.N. would meet Secretary-General Waldheim in New York. But the main reason for his return was other unspecified business not connected with the commission, the spokesman added.

Other members of the commission are: French jurist Louis Edmond Pettit, Syrian presidential adviser Adib Daoudi, Sri Lankan lawyer Harry Jayewardene, and Andres Aguilar Mawdsley, former Venezuelan ambassador to Washington.

The four met today under Mr. Aguilar's chairmanship at the U.N. European office in Geneva to discuss procedure and organisation of their work, and to collect relevant documents from the U.N. secretariat, the spokesman said.

Afghan rebels control vital road

JALALABAD, Afghanistan, Feb. 21 (R)—Afghanistan's most vital road link, the Jalalabad highway connecting the capital Kabul with the Khyber Pass, is now virtually rebel territory. Afghan rebels, fighting against the Soviet army presence in their country, control the highway and there is little evidence that Afghan government troops make any serious attempt to keep it open.

Four western journalists witnessed a rebel attack last week on the highway, about 35 kilometres west of here, and it clearly illustrated that rebels were able to seal the road. For more than three hours nearly 50 trucks, buses and cars were at the mercy of rebels and unable to travel to Kabul. They were also unable to push back to Jalalabad, being pinned down by a group of marksmen shooting at the vehicles from a hilltop hideout.

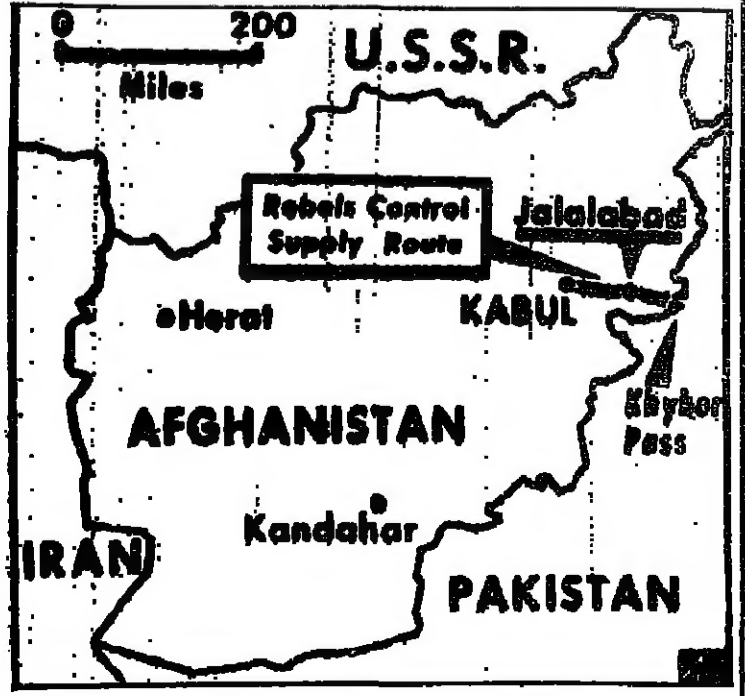
Two Afghan army armoured cars that came to lead the convoy out of rebel territory retreated after a brief exchange of gun fire. The convoy only moved back to Jalalabad after the rebel attack stopped. About a 100 km from Kabul on the road to Jalalabad, journalists with the convoy saw burnt out trucks and buses and a huge hole in the road blasted by a rebel landmine.

Afghan government troops guarded two hydro-electric stations on the way to Jalalabad but there was no evidence of Soviet troops except on the outskirts of Kabul.

Jalalabad, one of the three most important towns in Afghanistan, is where rebel territory begins. Many of the insurgents are believed to have sanctuaries in Pakistan.

Unlike Kabul, there is concentration of Soviet troops in Jalalabad and the talks of keeping the road open rests with the Afghan army. Most diplomats believe the rebels could close the highway for months. To keep it open, Soviet or Afghan troops would need constant air surveillance and massive patrolling.

The rebels have the advantage of the hills from where they can snipe at the road without being seen.



This map locates the main supply route from Pakistan which anti-communist rebels virtually control. According to western journalists travelling with a convoy of trucks and buses on the highway from Jalalabad to Kabul, rebels were attacking the convoys and out-maneuvring the Afghan soldiers sent to meet them. (AP photo map)

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— from the Arab News — Jeddah

Hassan plans trip to three Arab countries

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 21—His Highness Crown Prince Hassan is to leave at the end of this month on an eight-day visit to Kuwait, Qatar and Iraq, a palace source told the Jordan Times today.

Accompanying Prince Hassan will be Minister of Transport and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ali Suheimat, Director General of the Royal Scientific Society Albert Butros, Secretary General of the National Planning

Council Basil Jardaneh, Economic Adviser Bassam Saket and several aides.

The purpose of the trip is to discuss bilateral economic cooperation with stress on regional cooperation and complementarity. His Highness will discuss with the three countries how they and Jordan can complement one another's development by exchange of capital—whether oil or manufactured goods—for technical assistance and manpower," the source said.

Other topics to be discussed

include possible joint ventures and political issues of the area. The focus of the discussions will be on how the countries can promote national development through greater bilateral cooperation.

The source also announced Jordan is to host a conference on technical and economic cooperation among Arab states. Attending will be high policymakers from throughout Arab world. The conference will be held in Amman sometime in April.



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan presides at the seminar on Islam Thursday.

Islamic studies foundation to be set up within a year

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 21—A foundation for Islamic studies and research is to be established within a year, His Highness Crown Prince Hassan announced tonight at a follow-up meeting to last month's seminar on Islamic thought.

Prince Hassan, who chaired the meeting, said that the institute would be called the Al-Bayt (the descendants of the Prophet) foundation.

The drafting of a law for the foundation was among the recommendations presented tonight for discussion among the participants of the seminar.

Dr. Qasim Rimawi, acting prime minister and a member of the seminar, told the Jordan Times that seminar committees

had drafted recommendations for "general lines of action," which will give a "clear cut idea about the response of Islam to the challenges of contemporary society, and on the means to deal with modern-day economic and political conditions and family affairs."

Some 23 prominent scholars, religious leaders and government officials attended tonight's meeting. According to Dr. Rimawi, they are an "elite who represent different trends of thought and walks of life."

He termed the seminar a success "by the mere fact it has brought them together to discuss common problems—ones basic to all of them—scientifically, and to reconcile their divergent attitudes." He attributed the success of the seminar to the chairman, Prince Hassan.

Another important recommendation put forth was the

establishment of a school of Islamic studies to be located at Yarmouk University.

The school will train preachers to a higher level than that of the training already by the Ministry of Awqaf of the recommendations—our tonight will not be until they are seen and then by His Majesty King Hassan the prime minister and final form.

Last January's four-day seminar on Islamic thought chaired by Prince Hassan has its aim to more deeply allude to the aspiration of a danian society in the 21st century, and to find clear answers in Islam to contemporary challenges.

Sub committees were formed to draft recommendations of action to attain these

Quote, unquote...

WE HAVE previously commented in this space on the offensive use by the American Federal Bureau of Investigation of the code-name "Abscam" and of agents posing as Arab "sheiks" in the recent FBI investigation of bribery and corruption among some elected American officials.

Now we have found someone who states even better the revulsion that Arabs feel at this. Here is the text of a recent letter to the editor of The New York Times from Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations:

"The scene is a recent social gathering. An Arab is speaking to his American business partner:

'Is the week of the sheiks over? FBI agents posed as bribe-flinging Arab gluttons for casinos. Is it the power of wealth that prompted the FBI to use bogus Arabs in order to uncover a human weakness for money?

'And what do you think of Carter's doctrine, the gist of which is to defend "the sheiks" should they be attacked by the Soviets? In one instance, you denigrate the Arabs, insult them and hurt their pride, and in another you pose as their defenders. In both you show that you do not understand them.

'Yet you are involved in a conflict that has gripped their minds and history for 30 years. How can you assist in resolving a problem when you neither know nor make a serious effort to know the people most intimately involved? You may know the Soviets and the Israelis, but your knowledge of the Arabs is pathetic. No wonder you hardly move forward in the Arab World, and no wonder the radicals scoff at your pronouncements on the question of Palestine.

'In my country, people think that the Americans are tough, productive and practical. They are in many ways right. But certainly you are not right in your perception of the Arabs as corrupt, treacherous or unpredictable.

'You perceive us in stereotypes acquired from outdated textbooks. I know that your knowledge of the Arabs is limited, but I never thought that this knowledge is abysmal ignorance. Ignorance is your problem, but your intention to be a serious interlocutor in the Middle East while you are nakedly ignorant of the Arabs amuses me no less than the FBI's ignorance about sheiks."

Abdulla Yaccoub Bishara

Permanent Representative of
Kuwait to the United
Nations, New York.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: It is no secret that the talks between His Majesty King Hussein and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu currently taking place in Bucharest have special significance due to Jordan's position in the Arab World and to the Romanian concern for the Middle East issue.

It is natural, therefore, that the talks will cover the principles of the Jordanian stand, the Arab point of view and developments pertaining to the issue, foremost of which are the Israeli settlement practices in the occupied Arab territories and the autonomy plan which Egypt, Israel and the U.S. are negotiating despite the opposition and rejection of the Palestinian people. King Hussein and President Ceausescu will also discuss the Romanian viewpoint and bilateral relations between Jordan and Romania.

It goes without saying the current talks in Bucharest will not overlook current international developments and their effect on the Arab issue—the Jordanian attitude, which is keen on keeping the Arab world away from the superpower conflict—which we believe the Romanian side understands very well.

We wonder whether President Ceausescu has any vision of a way to get the Middle East issue out of the Camp David whirlpool and return it to the right course under the U.N. umbrella, especially since the Arab policy, which is determined to stay away from this whirlpool, is a firm and well-known one.

No doubt if such a vision exists, then it will naturally be of great interest in the Jordanian-Romanian talks. This should be in the light of Jordan's commitment to the pan-Arab stand, which means the rescue of the Palestinian cause and enabling the Palestinian people regain their land and determine their future in it before anything else.

AL DUSTOUR: His Majesty King Hussein's current visit to Romania and his meeting with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu have special significance at this particular stage, due to the independent role Romania is playing with regard to the two super powers on the one hand, and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the other.

Undoubtedly our leadership realizes what views and ideas the Romanian president has, in addition to what efforts he has exerted on the problem of diffusing the conflict in the region justly and comprehensively and arriving at a reasonable and workable settlement. This will provide King Hussein with a suitable opportunity to review all positions of the parties to the conflict—especially those involved in the Camp David accord—in addition to the attitudes of the influential international powers on the Middle East conflict.

The conclusion is that Romania constitutes for the Arab nation an important country in the context of the Arab movement at the European level—no less than the European countries who have begun the search for a way out of the current tense situation in the region due to the increasing Israeli intransigence.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Film

The French Cultural Centre presents a film by Rene Allio entitled "Moi, Pierre Riviere" (1976) at 7:30 p.m.

Art Exhibition

The Jordanian Cultural Centre presents an art exhibition on a regular basis. Various artists are exhibiting their works. The gallery is located at the Jordanian Cultural Centre, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Jordan agrees to world conservation strategy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 21—Her Majesty Queen Noor tonight chaired a meeting of Jordan's National Committee for World Conservation Strategy, and announced that the government has agreed to adopt the international organization's world environmental strategy. Her Majesty is the honorary chairman of Jordan's National Committee on Con-

servation and Environmental Affairs.

Details of the World Strategy on Conservation and the Environment, with which Jordan will comply, will be announced on March 6, the national coordinator of Jordan's committee, Mr. Haitham Goussous, told the Jordan Times tonight.

During the two-and-a-half hour meeting tonight, Jordan's long-term and short-term planning for promoting conservation and environmental affairs in all

aspects were thoroughly discussed.

"The government is taking environmental control very seriously," Mr. Goussous said.

Tonight's discussions dealt with curbing industrial pollution, keeping towns, villages and the countryside clean of refuse, ensuring Aquaba port and beaches are clean of all forms of pollution, and protection of agricultural lands from pollution, the creeping desert and urban expansion. Other topics included conservation of Jordan's natural resources, upgrading public health education services and curbing noise pollution.

"Her Majesty said she gives her full support for these endeavours and said His Majesty has also given his full backing to these projects and the work of the committee," Mr. Goussous said.

The meeting is a significant step in Jordan's push toward environmental awareness. Its purpose is in keeping with that of the recently established environmental branch in the Ministry of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs.

Accompanying the details of the world strategy to be disclosed on March 6 will be several activities geared to making the public more aware of the importance of conservation and the environment. These will include a national awareness day, special educational programmes for all schools, lectures at the University of Jordan and press conferences.

Attending tonight's meeting were the acting chairman of Jordan's National Committee on Conservation and Environmental Affairs and Minister of Municipal, Rural and Environmental Affairs Jamal Shair, Minister of Agriculture Qasim Al Rimawi, Amman Mayor Isam Ajlouni, Minister of Tourism Muwaffaq Al Fawwaz, Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Nsour, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and the president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Jordan trade fair opens this week in Baghdad

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JT)—Gas stoves, washing machines, refrigerators and electric appliances will be among Jordan's products on show at a Jordanian trade fair to be opened in Baghdad on Feb. 25.

According to Mr. Rashad Hamu, director general of the Commercial Centres Corporation, products in the fair will be for sale directly to the Iraqi consumer. Nearly 1.5 million

has been allocated for setting up the fair in Baghdad, in which some 100 Jordanian business firms and factories are participating, Mr. Hamu said.

Products for sale will also include: ready-made clothes, fabrics, shoes, carpet, chemicals, alcohol, furniture, scent, cigarettes, perambulators, insecticides and oriental ornaments.

Mr. Jamil Qammo will be director of the fair, which will remain open until March 16.

Local News Briefs

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JT)—The Chinese Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Ku Hsiao-po, discussed with Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Nsour today trade cooperation between Jordan and China. The two countries signed a trade agreement in 1978 which provides for increasing the volume of trade between them and opening commercial centres and trade fairs in both countries.

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JNA)—Jordan will take part in the seventh conference of Arab eye specialists, which is to open in Tunis on Oct. 26. Participants in the three-day conference will discuss eye diseases and treatment. The director of the eye section at the Beshir Hospital in Amman, Dr. Mu'een Tal, will represent Jordan at the conference.

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JNA)—Amman police today apprehended a gang of five robbers who had carried out 14 burglaries in the capital alone. A spokesman for the Public Security Directorate said the gang had stolen television sets, tape recorders, clothing, rolls of cloth, suitcases, butane gas bottles, fans and several other objects that were found hidden in a house which they had rented for storage purposes. The total value was estimated at JD 12,000. The spokesman appealed to the public to keep their houses firmly closed to thwart burglary attempts by robbers.

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JNA)—The Ministry of Education is considering a plan to set up a mobile shop to serve teachers working in remote areas of the country, a source at the ministry said. Prices to be charged by such a shop will be similar to those set by the Civil Service Consumer Corporation.

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JNA)—A spokesman for the Public Security Directorate said today that a total of 20 incidents occurred in Jordan over the past 24 hours, resulting in the death of one person and the injury of 14 others. Among these, he said, there were eight road accidents.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Potholes in a new road

To the Editor:

Perhaps I didn't have a right to complain up to now about the roads I travel every day to work, but now that I've paid my income tax I do.

I would like to draw to the authorities' attention the fact that sections of the new 'Ain Ghazal road already have holes and sunken asphalt surface. I am referring not to the as yet unfinished sections, but those already completed and in use. Should the authorities care to find them, they are in the new stretch near the poultry farm just east of the military museum, as well as just east of Tyche furniture warehouse.

Perhaps those readers who whiz along to work in expensive cars don't feel the bumps, but those of us who ride humbler forms of transportation (like motorcycles) do, I can assure you.

I would hope my JD 93 gets channelled into proper road building and maintenance!

Sincerely,
Lee S. Tesdell

Amman Rd.
Amman
Feb. 21, 1980

Israeli torture lands West Bank detainee in mental asylum

TEL AVIV, Feb. 21 (Agencies)—The mayor of Nablus, largest town on the occupied West Bank, says that a Nablus resident had become a mental wreck as a result of torture in an Israeli prison.

The independent Hebrew daily Haaretz said Sunday that Nader Affouri, 23, had been released last week after serving two years of "administrative detention" but was immediately transferred to a mental home near Bethlehem.

It quoted his lawyer, Mrs. Felicia Langer, as saying her client was now mentally ill, unable to speak or look after himself without help.

Mrs. Langer said that her client had been burned on the face and the hands by cigarettes 10 months ago. He had been in excellent health when imprisoned, she added.

Mrs. Langer said that authorities had failed to respond to complaints she had filed on behalf of Mr. Affouri and that she had not been informed officially that he had been institutionalised.

"The last time I saw him, in December, he was in a wheelchair, pale, thin, not moving," she said. "He could not talk to me. It was outrageous to keep a man in this condition under detention."

Israel has a law under which the military governors of the occupied territories can have a suspect placed in "administrative detention" without trial. Mr. Affouri has been held since August 1978, without charges being filed.

Mrs. Langer said that when she received no formal replies from Israeli authorities, she appealed Mr. Affouri's case to Amnesty International and the International Red Cross. She said that prison officials who spoke to her about the case told her that they thought Mr. Affouri was faking mental illness.

A spokesman for Israel's Ministry of Justice said Monday that Mr. Affouri had been examined by several Israeli and foreign specialists. "He suffered from a hysterical psychosis, which can be attested to by other prisoners," the spokesman said. However, Israeli authorities denied that he had been tortured.

Officials said that in February, 1979, a prison psychiatrist reported that Mr. Affouri was "gradually developing a detachment from his environment," and he was sent to the psychiatric section of a prison near Tel Aviv.

In October, a psychiatrist appointed by Amnesty International examined him and agreed with the diagnosis, an Israeli official said. He said that last Monday Mr. Affouri was transferred to a civilian psychiatric hospital in Bethlehem.

Amman Mayor Bassam Saket said Sunday that Mr. Affouri had been released in a most serious condition. He is paralysed and is

incapable of performing any action on his own. He does not anything.

"His condition is the result of torture under-gone while in prison," he said.

Mr. Shak'a said Mr. Affouri had been detained with charges being made against him, and without trial. "The authorities refused to say why he had been arrested despite appeals," he said.

"I appealed to the Ministry of Defence and army officers to him a year ago, when it was still possible to save him. But reply," he said.

Haaretz said that the case of Mr. Affouri was among the detainees by the Nablus mayor in a conversation with Mr. Danny Matt, Israeli military coordinator for the occupied West Bank, as a result of which the defence establishment had planned Mayor Shak'a.

The decision was reversed after a public outcry and an appeal to the supreme court. Gen. Matt had been quoted as saying, "Shak'a had justified a Palestinian commando attack on a bus had resulted in the death of some 60 passengers."

The army declined to comment on the reports of Mr. Affouri's condition.

The hospital where Mr. Affouri was admitted Monday journalists from seeing him on the orders of the Israeli authorities.

Mr. Affouri served a three-year term after being convicted of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which Israel terms an enemy organisation. He was freed in 1976, then only a few weeks later arrested again and held this time in a mental hospital.

Sit-in

Wives and relatives of Palestinian prisoners held in Nablus staged a sit-in demonstration in the Nablus town hall on Sunday against conditions in the jail.

They said that wardens had used tear gas to break up a sit-in the prison last week, when inmates protested, they lacked blankets for the winter cold.

Mayor Shak'a said that some of the 500 prisoners had been injured.

هكذا على الناس

Jordan Weekly Calendar

(Week of February 22-28)

THEATRE

AY, February 23: A local dramatic reading group is the first of an occasional series of play readings. choice is Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being The performance is at the British Council at 8:00 p.m. ision.

FILM FESTIVALS

JING: The Swedish film festival, sponsored by the Embassy and the Cine Club of Jordan, continues as a SATURDAY, February 23, "The Apple War" by on SUNDAY, February 24, "Wild Strawberries" by erman; and on MONDAY, February 25, "Swedish by Roy Anderson. A special performance is showing AY, February 26. All are showing at the Chamber of guiding auditorium, located between the Second Circle hami College on Jabal Amman. Performances start at

February 23: The Embassy of India presents a film at the American Centre at 6:30 p.m. All of colour and are subtitled in Arabic. The films being "Akhur", showing tonight: "Choti Si Baar", show- February 24; "Benaam", showing MONDAY, Feb- ruary 25; "Benaam", showing TUESDAY, February 26; and showing on WEDNESDAY, February 27. Admission available at the Indian Embassy.

FILM

February 22: The French Cultural Centre presents a ne Adlio entitled "Moi, Pierre Riviere" (1976), starring ebert, Jacqueline Milliers, Joseph Lepotier, Amide d Nicole Gehan. The story is about a triple murder. Its in h Arabic subtitles. Repeats are on Saturday and Sun- erformances start at 7:30 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY

February 26: The British Council presents "Focus on number 2, at 6:30 p.m. The films are: "The Midfield ith Trevor Brooking and "The Winger" with Gordon

ARCHAEOLOGY TRIP

February 29: The Friends of Archaeology will be tour- ological sites in the Wadi Rum, including a Nabataean nd shrine, pre-Islamic rock-cut inscriptions and a flint site. Dr. David Graf will be leading the tour, and g place to start off is the Wadi Rum police station at

Jordan-U.S. agreement opens way twice-weekly Alia Chicago flights

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Feb. 21 — Jordan and itates signed a bilat- agreement today giv- ch rights to operate charter flights bet- o countries, and also ia, the Royal Jor- ve, the right to begin hicago.

twice-weekly ago flights, which asoon, will have only v, either Vienna or The agreement also o start flights to Los nning in 1983.

man and President ur said afterward that n carrier has been the U.S. since June temporary permit, on He said that the suc- U.S. flights resulted reement: "This suc- at traffic and markets dated by the availa- ies and low fares."

the Jordanian gov- Director General of Sharif Ghazi Rakan. U.S. Ambassador to las Veliotos signed y. ning ceremony Mr. l: "I am happy to an is the first Arab n such an agree- U.S. under Pres-

LOCAL CHANGE RATES

295.00/297.00
672.30/676.30
mark 169.00/170.00
179.80/180.90
72.10/72.50
36.50/36.70
119.90/120.60
153.30/154.30
103.90/104.50
70.70/71.10



Director General of Civil Aviation Sharif Ghazi Rakan (left) and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotos sign the Jordanian-U.S. aviation agreement Thursday while Alia Chairman Ali Ghandour looks on.

ident Carter's civil aviation policies.

Mr. Ghandour considers the new agreement a "liberal" one based on the U.S. policy of airline fare deregulation. Alia has rights to fly to three U.S. destinations now — New York, Houston and Chicago.

Mr. Ghandour expressed the hope that one day American carriers will come to be Alia's partners in developing trade to this region. "I think that having an air bridge has made it physically possible to promote better trade and tourism, as well as understanding, between the two areas."

"When we started the U.S. flights on a trial basis almost three years ago, this move was considered a very courageous one because there were no statistics to show the profitability of a Middle East-U.S. air route," he said.

The Jordanian national carrier began its trans-Atlantic flights in June 1977, and it had carried 126,376 passengers between Amman and the U.S. by the start

Editor's Note: This is part of a series in which ministers talk to the Jordan Times about themselves and their work.

By Norah Barger
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 21 — In recent years, Jordan's judicial system has been subject to heavy criticism from citizens who claim justice is too slow and from lawyers and judges who decry bad conditions in the nation's courts. Underlining the need for reform, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, in his first policy statement as prime minister, made a call for a "more efficient and speedy" judicial system.

The man he has chosen to help attain this goal is Mr. Najib Irsheidat, the new minister of justice. Mr. Irsheidat, whom one may well call a born lawyer, has spent about half his professional career in the private sector and the other half in public service, where he was previously posted once as a governor, and twice as a minister.

Born in 1922 in Irbid, he remained in his hometown throughout his primary and secondary schooling. "I always wanted to be a lawyer," he reminisced to the Jordan Times. "When I was 12, I began visiting the courts to watch the proceedings."

When he was 18 he went to Damascus University to pursue his dream of studying law. After he received his law degree in 1943, he settled down back in Irbid as a private lawyer.

Three years later, he joined the government as a magistrate and was assigned to Ma'an. "I did so well there," he laughed, "the next year they assigned me to Tafleh." Later he was transferred to Ajloun, and in 1950 he became a magistrate in Amman—where he has lived ever since.

In 1961, he resigned from his post as magistrate in order to run—as it turned out, successfully—for a seat in parliament representing Irbid. When the parliament was dissolved 145 days later, he began work as a private lawyer. Within three years he had made enough of a mark among his fellow lawyers to be elected president of the Jordan Bar Association.



Najib Irsheidat

He gave up this post, however, in mid-1969 when he was appointed governor of Amman. Barely a year later, in April 1970, he was chosen to be minister of interior under Prime Minister Bahjat Talhouni. When Mr. Talhouni resigned in July of that year, a new government was formed under Mr. Abdel Munim Rifai, with Mr. Irsheidat as minister of communications.

This cabinet was also short-lived: the government resigned in mid-September 1970. Once more, Mr. Irsheidat returned to private practice—where he remained until last Dec. 19, when he was made minister of justice.

While recalling these various events in his life, he noted jokingly that important occurrences seem, as a rule, to happen to him on the 19th day of the month. He reeled off a list: "I was born on the 19th, received my law degree on the

19th, was made a governor and twice made a minister on the 19th days of the month."

Although his conversation is punctuated by laughter and good humour, Mr. Irsheidat's interests are strictly serious. His pastimes are limited to activities that train the mind—he reads legal and sociological texts and plays chess.

The minister has six children, five boys and one girl. The eldest, a son, is a government official in the Customs Department. The other five are all currently in university studying for professions.

Two sons are studying engineering in the U.S., another is in his fourth year at the College of Medicine at Cairo University and the youngest child, his only daughter, last year entered the Faculty of Science at the University of Jordan, with the intention of studying pharmacy as soon as it is offered. His other son is following in his father's footsteps. This year he will graduate with a law degree from Damascus University.

When asked how he felt about becoming minister of justice after having served stints as head of two other ministries, Mr. Irsheidat said: "I feel I really know the judiciary. I am happy to be the minister of justice because it is in my line and I have a good chance for introducing improvements."

He added that he is currently formulating steps to make the judicial system more speedy and efficient, but that for now they must remain confidential pending cabinet approval. He was, however, able to speak about moves he is making towards solving two pressing problems of the judiciary: a lack of judges and overcrowding at the Palace of Justice (the main court building in downtown Amman).

"What concerns me now," he said, "is the provision of funds to introduce improvements (in these two areas) in the judicial system."

While Jordan has no shortage of lawyers, the kingdom claims only some 150 judges, some of whom

are faced with 40 cases in a single day, and all of whom are underpaid. It is estimated that at least 50 more judges are needed to reach a minimally acceptable number. "Judges," he said firmly, "should receive salaries that are high enough to relieve them from facing hardships due to limited income."

"The problem of a lack-of judges," he continued, emphasizing the financial side, "could be overcome if the gap between the salary of a judge and the fees of a lawyer were not so wide as is in fact the case now."

He also intends to use the broad contacts he has developed among private lawyers to convince more of them to enlist as judges. "Some of them," he said, "will be expected and requested to sacrifice the financial side—as many of them can afford to do—in order to enable the judiciary, with the help of more judges, to achieve efficiency and speed in the handling of cases."

The conditions at the Palace of Justice, whose atmosphere is frequently compared to a marketplace, were brought to public attention last year when several of the Arabic language newspapers did exposes, accompanied by photographs, on its decrepit facilities.

Mr. Irsheidat agrees that such criticism "is not unjustified. Until recently, the building accommodated the Court of Appeal and the District Court with their many chambers, as well as about 12 magistrates' courts. These are in addition to offices for the attorney general and his staff, the public prosecutors and notary public. The building in its present form, falls short of the requirement in both space and shape."

Before the end of last year, the Court of Appeal and the attorney general's office were moved to a new building in Jabal Hussein, relieving somewhat the congestion at the Palace of Justice.

The Court of Appeal, currently the only one in Jordan, will be further streamlined when a new one, already underway, is set up in Irbid. Since one-third of the Court of Appeal's work deals with cases coming out of the Irbid region, citizens and judiciary alike will benefit from this second court of appeal.

Provided that funds can be obtained, the minister has another proposal for decentralising the Palace of Justice and bringing the judicial system to the people. He hopes to set up a number of magistrates' courts in the populated

quarters of Amman. The limiting factors on this plan, he said, are adequate funds to pay for rent and the appointment of enough judges.

He will also press for what he calls "the ideal solution": obtaining a building—perhaps in Abdali—spacious enough to accommodate all the judicial offices and courts (with the exception of the above-named magistrates' courts) in Amman. He envisages that within two or three years, the judicial system will be operating out of such a building.

Another area in the judicial system on which Mr. Irsheidat will concentrate is the drafting of legislation. He feels that many of the "flaws and loopholes normally included in new enactments could be avoided, and those in old enactments could be amended." To this end, he will try to foster greater cooperation between the ministry and the Jordan Bar Association—because private lawyers can "contribute a great

deal" in this respect.

Among the first enactments the minister of justice will be responsible for is a law, now being drafted, for trying cases of bribery and other acts of malfeasance by government employees. The ministry will set up the tribunal that will hear the cases, and its judges will be under the ministry's administrative control.

In a final word, Mr. Irsheidat said that the Ministry of Justice has no intention of taking over any of the duties of the Shari'a courts (Islamic courts that deal mostly with matters of personal status such as marriage, divorce and inheritance), but rather will continue to "reciprocate cooperation in matters of mutual interest."

He added that while the ministry will continue to respect tribal customs, "tribal law is now deemed outdated and there is no room in our society to keep it in force. There should be one law, and that law should be comprehensive."

Bashir explains planned local government law

AMMAN, Feb. 21 (JT) — The proposed local government law, now in the final stages of preparation, is intended to grant local governors in Jordan a wider range of authority and will allow local communities to elect "governorate councils" for the first time in Jordan. Interior Minister Ali Al Bashir said in an interview published here today.

He told Al Ra'i newspaper that local government means allowing local residents to participate in managing their own affairs and running public services. At a later stage the system will be developed into a decentralised administration, by which local governors will be invested with executive power — which means even greater authority.

Special budgets will be earmarked for each governorate, and these will be handled by the governorate councils, which will be something different from the municipal councils of towns and villages, the minister said. But, he added, there will be cooperation between the two. Governorate councils, he said, will be made up of elected members of municipal councils and heads of government departments in each governorate. Each council will report directly to its respective governor.

In answer to a question, the

minister denied rumours that the ministry intended to introduce amendments to the existing naturalisation law. This law, he said, permits any non-Jordanian Arab citizen to obtain Jordanian citizenship after residing in Jordan for four years, on condition he or she has proven means of making a living.

Another article in the law permits non-Jordanians to be naturalised after living in Jordan for 15 consecutive years, if the request is approved by the foreigner's country of origin. Article five of the same law permits the King to grant citizenship to aliens upon request, and on condition they give up their original citizenship.

Requests by non-Jordanian Arabs who want to bring in capital and settle in Jordan will also be considered by special committees before they are granted citizenship, the minister said.

Asked about the cases of detainees, the minister denied that people are being detained for trivial reasons, and stressed that local governors are invested with the power of detention without trial when it is in the interest of public security, or to prevent crimes that are liable to happen. After a crime has been committed it will be the task of the law court to deal with it, he said.

Transport Ministry plans to purchase 100 new buses

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, Feb. 21 — Those in Jordan who are dependent on public transportation should be delighted to hear that the Ministry of Transport plans to add 100 new buses to its existing fleet.

"We plan to buy 100 more buses and put them to use by the end of this year," Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat told the Jordan Times today.

Some of the new 50-seat buses will be used to relieve the heavy demand for public transportation in the Amman region, but most are to be purchased for another reason.

"The ministry intends to use most of them on routes between Amman and the country's major cities, such as Irbid, Salt, Aqaba and Madaba. And more destinations could be added to the list later."

"The idea is to make more efficient use of transportation by cutting down on the fuel consumption of cars, services and taxis, not just because of their higher fuel consumption but also because of their higher cost of maintenance and spare parts," Mr. Suheimat said. The ministry has not yet decided what kind of buses will be

purchased. It will soon begin studying prices and fleet bids from several manufacturers. Most of the buses now in use are Mercedes.

The addition of 100 buses is part of the Ministry's drive to improve transportation services throughout the country, not just in the Amman region, but to meet the growing demand caused by the ever-increasing traffic of both people and goods among Jordan's major cities.

The need for improved roads along these routes goes along with that for increased transport service, in order that its full benefit may be realised. Hence, the ministry is also concentrating on projects to upgrade existing roads.

Mr. Suheimat said the decision to buy the buses comes at a time when the country is faced with the skyrocketing price of imported oil, and all measures to make more efficient use of fuel help strengthen the national economy.

TODAY'S WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy with light and variable winds. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Overnight	Daytime
	low	high
Amman	4	14
Aqaba	10	23
Deserts	4	14
Jordan Valley	11	21

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JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Lebanese diplomat skis in Winter Games

LAKE PLACID, Feb. 21 (R)—Farida Rahmei is, she says, not very good at downhill skiing. In fact, the petite, 25-year-old brunette from Beirut has never competed in a downhill race before in her life.

But that did not stop her jumping out of the gate at the top of a windswept and icy Whiteface Mountain Sunday to take part in the women's Olympic downhill race alongside such renowned experts as Austrian Anne-Marie Moser and Marie-Therese Nadig of Switzerland.

"I am not in the least bit frightened by the run," she said. "It is the first downhill race I have ever competed in, but I was at the Innsbruck Olympics four years ago," she added.

In Innsbruck, on the Axamer Lizum run, she was probably wise to abstain. Here, after the first 800 metres or so, the 2,998-metre piste develops into what one of the top competitors has described as a nursery slope.

The icy conditions Sunday nevertheless made the run extremely fast and hazardous.

At Innsbruck she took part in the giant slalom, finishing 43rd. Her time of 2 minutes 11.08 seconds was 42 seconds off the pace.

The decision to enter the downhill here was dictated by the fact that only about 15 girls will qualify for the combined title, a world, but not Olympic, crown based on her performances in all three events, so she could get a very flattering result.

Unlike the girls racing



Farida Rahmei with protective headgear at Whiteface Mountain

against her, many of whom could ski before they walked. Miss Rahmei took up the sport only when she was seven and began competition with the Innsbruck games.

Since then, she has entered only the world and Olympic championships because, she says, her job is too interesting to leave. When not skiing, she is Lebanon's cultural attaché to their consulate in Frankfurt, West Germany.

In practice for the downhill, she worked her time down from over three minutes to just over two and a half despite an injury. She started last because if she hadn't she might have been overtaken.

She again finished last Sunday in two minutes 17.03 seconds, 39.11 seconds slower than Moser, the Austrian winner, but still over 16 seconds faster than she had done before.

European basketball results

LONDON, Feb. 21 (R)—Results of major European club basketball matches last night: Women's champions cup group quarter-final, sixth series, in Prague: STF Turin (Italy) beat Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) 79-60 (halftime 37-28).

Korac Cup quarter-final, sixth series, in Zagreb: Cibona Zagreb (Yugoslavia) beat MTV Wolfenbuttel (West Germany) 113-94 (56-44).

Women's Champions' Cup quarter-final, sixth series, in Oud-Beijerland, Netherlands: Oud-Beijerland (Netherlands) beat Mineur Pernik (Bulgaria) 88-79 (48-40).

Korac Cup quarter-final, sixth series, in Split, Yugoslavia: Jugoplastika Split (Yugoslavia) beat Standard Liege (Belgium) 86-77 (40-39).

Women's Ronchetti Cup group quarter-final, sixth series, in Belgrade: KKV Belgrade (Yugoslavia) beat Levski Spartak (Bulgaria) 84-76 after extension (regular time 73-66, halftime 38-38).

Korac Cup quarter-final, sixth series, in Badalona, Spain: Colonoficio (Spain) beat Orthez (France) 101-94 (57-44).

In Rieti, Arrigoni Rieti (Italy) beat Tofas Bursa (Turkey)

115-83 (64-40) in a sixth series Group 'B' Korac Cup quarter-final last night.

In Mestre, Siperga Mestre (Italy) beat Valladolid (Spain) 95-86 (49-37) in a sixth series Group 'D' Korac Cup quarter-final.

In Istanbul, Eczacıbasi SK (Turkey) beat KK Zadar (Yugoslavia) 94-85 (58-44) in a sixth series Group 'B' European men's Cup winners Cup basketball quarter-final last night.

In Budapest, Spartacus Budapest of Hungary beat AS Montferland of France 81-60 (34-31) in a sixth series Group 'B' Ronchetti Cup quarter-final basketball match last night.

In Sofia, Slavia Sofia (Bulgaria) beat TV Budapest (Hungary) 71-69 (36-23) in a sixth series Group 'D' Ronchetti Cup quarter-final last night.

In Plovdiv, Maritza Plovdiv (Bulgaria) beat SS Roma (Italy) 98-75 (46-37) in a sixth series Group 'A' Ronchetti Cup quarter-final.

British football scores

LONDON, Feb. 21 (R)—Results of British football matches played last night were:

English Football Association Cup fifth round replay

Aston Villa one, Blackburn zero, (winners away to West Ham quarter-finals March 8)

English Division Two

Leicester one, Swansea one.

Newcastle zero, Birmingham zero, (both postponed from Feb. 16)

English Division Three

Chester one, Carlisle zero, (postponed Feb. 16)

Reading one, Rotherham one, (postponed Jan. 26)

English Division Four

Port Vale two, Crewe zero, (postponed Jan. 19)

Scottish Division One

Airdrieonians three, Clydebank one, (postponed Feb. 2)

Division Two

Cowdenbeath zero, East Stirling one, (postponed Jan. 12)

Scottish Football Association Cup fourth round replay

St. Mirren two, Celtic three, (after extra time) (Celtic home to Morton in quarter-finals March 8).

Winter Olympics results

LAKE PLACID, Feb. 21 (R)—Eric Heiden pioneers new genre the Winter Olympics today when he goes for a record fourth speed skating gold medal. The 21-year-old American came last Placid with a solid reputation built on his four world sprint championships and three overall world titles.

But with three races won in the Olympic programme, he is already a three-time Olympic champion, and even his Olympic record is unbeatable. Even the women's giant slalom, part of the attention-grabbing alpine ski schedule and one of gold medals to be decided today, will pale by comparison with Heiden's appearance in the 1,500 metres.

When he has won it—and there seems to be no one in Placid with the remotest doubt that he will—all that remains is the 10,000 metres on Saturday. No man has ever won four Olympic speed skating titles, let alone all five, but the feat seems well within Heiden's reach.

Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein will be the woman to beat in the second leg of the giant slalom, in which she holds a combined advantage of 0.42 seconds. Wenzel, the World Cup leader, won the downhill silver medal on Whiteface Mountain on Sunday, won four giant slaloms in a row. West German Irene Epple, winner after the initial run, is just about in range of the gold. But third-placed Christa Kinzhofer, another West German, is nearly a second slower and is unlikely to narrow the gap.

But the gap between the leader in the men's figure skating German Jan Hoffmann, and second-placed Robin Cousins of Great Britain is fairly slender with only the free-skating section to come. Cousins is acknowledged as the world's best free-skater, could make a ground, though he has been hampered by being drawn to skate the final group of six.

A fifth Nordic ski victory for the Soviet Union looks likely in the women's 4x5 kilometre cross-country relay. The Russian line-up include three of the four women who retained the title in among them Raisa Smetanina who already has one gold medal. Finland will provide the main challenge, with East Germany and Sweden expected to fight for the bronze.

U.S. Olympic spokesman criticises Carter

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (R)—Robert Kane, President of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), criticised the administration today for saying its decision to boycott the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow was irrevocable. Kane added that the USOC would have no choice but to go along with the government-ordered boycott, imposed in retaliation for Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

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Waldheim discussing matter with U.K. Security Council calls for Rhodesia mission

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 21 (Agencies) -- Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said last night Security Council members had asked him to send a mission to Rhodesia, where elections are due to be held next week.

He said he was discussing the matter further with Britain, as the administering power, through the British U.N. mission.

Mr. Waldheim was speaking to reporters after taking part in closed-door Council consultations convened at the request of the African members.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere last week called on Mr. Waldheim to make an immediate fact-finding visit to Rhodesia, charging that the British governor, Lord Soames, was violating the London agreement providing for a ceasefire and free elections leading to the colony's independence.

A British spokesman said Tuesday that the secretary-general had decided it would be inappropriate for himself to visit Rhodesia now that the election campaign was underway, but that he might send a representative.

This followed a statement by a U.N. spokesman that Britain had told Mr. Waldheim such a trip would not be appropriate but that an observer appointed by him would be acceptable.

After last night's consultations, Mr. Waldheim said: "The Council members requested the secretary-general to send a mission there but I am now in contact with the administering power, which is the United Kingdom, in order to clarify the matter."

Asked whether the mission would consist of Council members or members of the U.N. secretariat, he said: "It has not been decided yet."

He was also unable to say how large the mission would be. One Council source said a three-

member group was being considered.

The London agreement provides no official role for U.N. monitoring of the Rhodesian election, which is being observed by a Commonwealth commission.

In Salisbury, nationalist leader Robert Mugabe's press spokesman, Mr. Justin Nyoka, appeared in court today accused of encouraging violence and was remanded on bail, police said.

Mr. Nyoka, who told reporters he was arrested at his suburban Salisbury home early today, was remanded on \$75 bail. He did not have to plead during the brief appearance.

Police said the charges arose from an illegal political meeting addressed by Mr. Nyoka last month in the south-western town of Shabani.

Mr. Nyoka, who was charged under the sweeping Law and Order Maintenance Act, said he had been told by police he had shouted inflammatory slogans. Among the phrases he was accused of using were "forward with the war" and "forward with the revolution."

Mr. Nyoka is a candidate for Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front) party in next week's pre-independence election.

Guerrilla supporters of ZANU-PF have been blamed by Lord Soames for most of the violence in the build-up to elections.

Mr. Nyoka's arrest is the latest of a series of acts by the authorities against ZANU-PF leaders. Lord Soames has banned party treasurer Enos Nkala from campaigning because he told a rally the war would continue if ZANU-PF did not win the election.

The wife of election director Eddison Zvobgo, Mrs. Julia Zvobgo, was arrested at Shabani in western Rhodesia last week on charges of sheltering guerrillas.

In London, Amnesty International claimed today that human rights are being violated in Rhodesia under Britain's caretaker administration because



Kurt Waldheim

law enforcement is still largely in the hands of Rhodesian officials responsible for secret executions and torture.

The London-based human rights organisation said in a statement that it called Lord Soames expressing alarm "at the relatively free rein left to the Rhodesian administration to maintain law and order on their own terms."

Amnesty acknowledged that "considerable improvements" had been made on human rights, including commuting death sentences. But it stressed "the overall picture was still deeply disturbing."

Amnesty estimated there were between 3,000 and 6,000 convicted political prisoners in Rhodesia.

It charged that others are being seized under 30-day detention orders and emphasised that Lord Soames' refusal to allow the International Red Cross access to prisoners "exactly parallels the attitude previous Rhodesian administrations."

Leaving memories of unconventional, caustic wit Teddy Roosevelt's daughter dies at 96

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (R) -- Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the president's daughter who shocked turn-of-the-century America but ruled Washington society for 50 years with her barbed tongue and quick wit, has died aged 96.

The daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt and friend or foe of all 17 U.S. presidents in the last 100 years, she died yesterday from bronchial pneumonia after catching a cold a few days ago.

As a young beautiful socialite, she was dubbed "Princess Alice", America's answer to European royalty. But her outrageous behaviour and caustic wit once made her father declare: "I can either run the country or control Alice -- but not both."

She was only six years old when she dubbed President Benjamin Harrison a "solemn, bearded gnome".

She described her distant cousin, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as the family "feather duster".

Her party-going and party-throwing became legendary. During one 15-month period, she was

Dutch cabinet split over spending cuts

THE HAGUE, Feb. 21 (R) -- The Dutch cabinet failed early today to patch up a major row over public spending cuts which led to Finance Minister Frans Andriessen offering his resignation.

Queen Juliana, cutting short a winter sports holiday in Austria because of the crisis, would fly home today, a government spokesman said.

The cabinet ended a five-hour emergency session just before one a.m. without reaching agreement, he said.

Mr. Andriessen tendered his resignation last night after opposing a cabinet decision to slash government spending by a reported three billion guilders (\$1.56 billion), political sources said.

Deputy-Premier Hans Wiegel has said the resignation of one cabinet minister could mean the collapse of the whole government.

Informed sources said the cabinet would meet again today and added that ministers had not given up hope of persuading Mr. Andriessen to change his mind and stay in office.

The political sources said the future of Social Affairs Minister Willem Albeda also hung in the balance over the proposed cuts. Both he and Mr. Andriessen disagreed, for different reasons, with their cabinet colleagues over the cuts in public expenditure, the sources added.

Mr. Andriessen, finance minister since 1977, felt the cuts did not go far enough to hold down the government's record budget deficit, and Mr. Albeda believed they would lead to nationwide trade union protests, the sources said. Both belong to the senior ruling coalition partner, the Christian Democratic Party (CDA).

Ministers stressed after the cabinet meeting broke up that they did not want the affair to lead to a collapse of the government. "The country will not be served by a crisis within the government," Deputy-Premier Wiegel said.

Prime Minister Andreas van Agt confirmed that Mr. Andriessen had tendered his resignation, and said he had cancelled a visit to the United States next week because of domestic political uncertainties.

Queen Juliana had planned to stay in the Austrian resort of Lech for a further week. She is due to abdicate on April 30 in favour of her eldest daughter, Crown Princess Beatrix.

ATHENS, Feb. 21 (R) -- A pro-government Athens newspaper said today Greece has rejected a plan submitted by NATO's senior commander in Europe for the country's re-entry into the alliance's integrated military structure.

A Greek Government spokesman declined to comment on the report in the daily paper Kathimerini, saying an official statement would be issued in due course.

Kathimerini, quoting well-

informed sources, said the Greek rejection of the plan put to the Greek armed forces commander, General Agamemnon Gratzios, by NATO Supreme Commander General Bernard Rogers on Feb. 11 was sent to NATO yesterday.

Greece withdrew from NATO's military wing in 1974 in protest against the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey, which is also a member of the alliance.

Greece is now seeking a special relationship with NATO under

Kosygin ends long absence

MOSCOW, Feb. 21 (R) -- Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin, absent from the political stage since last October because of illness, reappeared in public today to make an election speech.

Mr. Kosygin, who celebrated his 76th birthday today, was shown by Soviet television at a political meeting in the Bolshoi Theatre.

The Soviet premier reappeared to address voters from his Moscow constituency of Frunze in advance of elections this Sunday to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

No official explanation has been given for Mr. Kosygin's 18-week absence, though informed sources in Moscow said he suffered a massive heart attack.

He was last seen in public on Oct. 17, when he took his leave of President Hafez Al Assad at Moscow airport after standing in for President Leonid Brezhnev at talks with the Syrian leader.

During his absence, his duties as overlord of the Soviet economy have been performed by First Deputy Premier Nikolai Tikhonov, who is 74.

Mr. Tikhonov joined the ruling Politburo last November as a full member in recognition of his extra responsibilities.

According to informed sources, Mr. Kosygin is still not able to resume his normal duties.

NATO plan for Greece 'rejected'

which the Greek armed forces would remain under national command, except in a major East-West conflict when they would revert to NATO command.

A return to NATO is being blocked by Turkey, which wants to see its disputes with Greece over the delineation of the continental shelf in the Aegean Sea and control of the Aegean air space settled first.

Details of the Rogers plan were not disclosed, but sources said on Feb. 12 it provides for a three-zone formula under which Greek and Turkish air forces would be responsible for NATO air defence over their respective mainland and territorial waters.

The rest of the Aegean, including international waters and the Greek islands in the sea, would come under American command based in Crete and headed by an American.

Kathimerini said today that the Greek reply was formulated following a number of meetings by key ministers in Athens under the chairmanship of Premier Constantine Karamanlis.

Kathimerini said the Greek Government totally rejected General Rogers' proposals and told NATO the resumption of talks for the country's re-entry should be based on an agreement by former NATO commander General Alexander Haig and the then commander of the Greek armed forces, General Ioannis Davos.

That plan, agreed upon in March 1978, was accepted by Greece, but was later modified by General Haig to meet Turkish demands. The revised plan was rejected by Greece in May 1979.

World News Briefs

BANGKOK, Feb. 21 (R) -- U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Poul Hartling said today that he had received firm assurances from Thai leaders that Thailand would maintain its "open door" policy admitting refugees from Indochina. Mr. Hartling also told a conference here that UNHCR policy was not to have newly-arrived Kampuchean refugees in camps here for many years. It was looking for "durable solutions" -- mainly resettlement in third countries -- voluntary repatriation. But he stressed that repatriation depended on whether the Kampuchean eventually wanted to return, and it would have to be voluntary. "The UNHCR will never, never, force a refugee back," he said. He said it was clear that none, or few, of the 110,000 Kampuchean refugees housed in a large camp in Thailand were prepared to go back to Kampuchea at the end of Western Kampuchea, adjacent to the Thai border, is still the site of fighting between Vietnamese-led forces and anti-government militias and is facing continued grave food shortages.

PARIS, Feb. 21 (R) -- Iran's \$1 billion share in the Eurodif uranium enrichment plant will remain frozen until at least May 7, an appeals court said yesterday. The revolutionary Islamic government which came to power last year has taken a strong nuclear stance and said it wanted to withdraw the investment in uranium enrichment plant undertaken by the Shah. The appeals court said after hearing arguments by lawyers for Iran that a billion investment would remain frozen until the court said on May 7. The court will then hear the French government present its case on French law governing the investment. Lawyers for Iran said today the investment was not a commercial one and therefore not tied to commercial law but a political one. They said it must, therefore, be settled between the two governments.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21 (R) -- Authorities issued fresh flood warnings in Los Angeles today as further rain washed aside sandbags threatening to send more houses sliding down hillsides. Twenty people have died so far in a week of flooding in southern California and state officials estimate damage at \$260 million. The National Weather Service issued flood warnings for the canyons in the Angeles area where million-dollar houses are perched on hill and 20 have already been destroyed or heavily damaged. Weather experts said the latest predicted storm could add 38 millimetres of rain to the 305 millimetres already recorded during the past week. The biggest deluge since 1969. State Lieutenant-Governor Curb sent a letter to President Carter yesterday asking for Government aid. State Governor Jerry Brown, campaigning for presidency in the state of New Hampshire, has already declared a state of emergency in the storm areas and has sent in 18,000 National Guardsmen to help with transport, first aid and water-diversion.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (AP) -- U.S. Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris is departing today on a three-day African trip with an eye to expanding health ties on that continent. Mrs. Harris and a party of eight will fly from New York tonight to Senegal and then to Liberia, Nigeria and Egypt on the trip. She will be the first U.S. official to visit sub-Saharan Africa since 1969. Mrs. Harris said she intends to explore the possibility of cooperative health programmes with Liberia and Nigeria and to review the existing U.S.-Egyptian health programmes which meet the presidents and health and social welfare ministers of the three countries.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (AP) -- Former Kampuchean Prince Norodom Sihanouk arrived here on a 17-day visit to winning American support for an international conference to peace to his war-ravaged homeland. Prince Sihanouk arrived last night and planned to meet today with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke. A meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is set for next week. Since Prince Sihanouk's 1970 coup, Kampuchea has been wracked by war and star. Prince Sihanouk believes his countrymen may face extinction unless peace is restored. U.S. State Department officials, who asked he be identified, said yesterday that the time is not ripe for an international conference because Vietnam has shown no interest in participating. Without the participation of Vietnam, which has 24 troops deployed in Kampuchea, the convening of an international peace conference would be pointless, one official said.

VICTORIA, Seychelles, Feb. 21 (R) -- Authorities have a report about 20 people detained in the Seychelles Islands when it was announced it had foiled a coup in November. Intelligence sources said today. They were released without any announcement. The government has said that as its investment continues, those considered only marginally involved are gradually freed. More than 80 people were arrested in police in November. French police adviser Jacques Chevalereau, who by the government as the chief plotter, was released and left January. In Nairobi, travellers from Seychelles said they had families of the detainees indicated some 22 people were still held.



Lord Soames

Two-year nuclear power talks to hold final session

VIENNA, Feb. 21 (R) -- Over 500 experts from more than 50 nations are nearing the end of two years of inconclusive talks on how atomic power can be expanded without increasing the risk of nuclear arms proliferation.

A major aim of the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE), launched by President Carter in October 1977, was to persuade nuclear countries that American objections to the commercial use of plutonium, which can be used to make bombs, are justified.

In this it failed, according to Western diplomats. But the lengthy session was by no means a total loss. It did get the countries involved together for rational discussion of an emotive subject and ended in general agreement on the dangers of nuclear material falling into the wrong hands.

The decision to undertake the study, which will end officially with a final-day session opening on Monday, followed a period of turmoil and tension in the international nuclear field.

India's first atomic explosion in 1974 and nuclear deals between West European and developing countries prompted the U.S. to impose tough conditions on the sale of nuclear material abroad.

This brought it into conflict with other nuclear nations who feared the U.S., a major supplier of enriched uranium fuel for conventional reactors, would cut off their supplies.

The American Government wanted assurances that the uranium would not be turned into plutonium, which is made from reprocessing spent fuel from ordinary nuclear reactors.

The attraction of plutonium, especially for countries without natural uranium, is that it can be used over and over again as fuel for so-called fast-breeder reactors, which are being developed in Western Europe and Japan. Plutonium is therefore far more economical than ordinary enriched uranium.

Other countries, saying they could not afford the "luxury" of the U.S. position, also argued that reprocessing solved two thorny problems of nuclear energy, the storage and disposal of radioactive waste.

The U.S. argues that the development of fast-breeder reactors is likely to be so expensive that only a handful of the wealthiest countries can afford them. It cited studies indicating that the cost of commercial reprocessing might be up to eight times more than processing uranium from ore.

According to diplomatic sources, the final 80-page report on the study, which is not binding on governments, recommends that reprocessing is justified in highly industrialised countries with substantial nuclear programmes.

At the same time, the study succeeded in making the U.S. aware of the needs of Europe and Japan, while the latter ended up with a better understanding of U.S. concern about proliferation, the sources said.

One major point of disagreement between the two sides was just how much uranium is available in the world.

While the U.S. has argued that there is enough in the Western world to fuel convention reactors at least until the year 2025, this was contested by European and other experts.

Diplomats said one of INFCE's problems was that it attempted to limit itself to a purely technical study of issues which were essentially political.

They added that it was too early to say just what the effects of the study would be.

It was thought unlikely that its recommendations would lead to any immediate change in U.S. attitudes, especially in a presidential election year.

On the positive side, the study has already produced some useful spinoffs in the form of international study groups on plutonium storage and spent fuel management. Both are to become permanent institutions.

Perhaps most important of all, INFCE had created a better climate and more understanding between countries involved in nuclear power, the sources said.

"When INFCE started, there were rows all the time and meetings were pretty chaotic," said one Western diplomat. "Two years later the same people are talking, but in a more rational and useful way."

Getting ready for Halley's comet

By Horst Uwe Keller and Rhea Lust

The most famous of the comets, Halley's, makes its next appearance near the sun in 1986. It will be the last chance for scientists this century to examine closely a bright and active comet.

So a space probe is being prepared. Various plans have been rejected for technical or financial reasons.

The current idea is to launch a large spacecraft which will travel about 57 kilometres a second about 100,000 kilometres from the comet.

Comets were once believed to be harbingers of disaster. Unlike most other phenomena in our planetary system, their appearance cannot be calculated exactly. There are many reasons for scientists' interest in comets. They are tiny heavenly bodies which scientists believe revolve slowly around the sun at the outer extreme of the solar system, almost as far away as the next fixed stars.

There are about 100 billion of them. They give off no light, because the rays of the sun do not reach

them. Since the beginning of our planetary system almost five billion years ago, their structure has literally frozen.

This means that more than any other celestial bodies, comets can tell us about the origins of the solar system, including earth--if we can decipher their messages correctly.

Only when distant comets are thrown out of their orbits by nearby stars do they become visible to us in the inner planetary system for a few months.

The warming rays of the sun give them life, transforming them from dead lumps of ice into brilliant celestial bodies.

Gases at the surface evaporate and, together with tiny dust particles, form the giant, shimmering cover which is often hundreds of thousands of times bigger than the comet itself.

Apart from this visible cover, the comet is surrounded by an invisible atmosphere of hydrogen atoms. Its diameter is over ten million kilometres--far bigger than the sun. It radiates only in the ultra-violet sphere and was first observed from artificial satellites a few years ago.

The sun is also responsible for forming the comet's tail, which can be up to 100 million kilometres long; the sun's rays and a stream of charged hydrogen atoms, known as solar wind, drive the cometary gases and the dust particles ahead of them like the

chimney. What we see from the earth is not the tiny comet itself, which is frequently less than ten kilometres in diameter. It is the particles coming away from its surface and gathering in a luminous atmosphere.

These are not the same chemical substances of which the comet proper consists: the sun has not only ensured evaporation but started chemical processes leading to a breaking up of larger molecules.

Spectral analysis of these substances only allows us to speculate on the possible composition of the comet proper because there is a large number of possible processes.

According to this analysis, scientists believe the comet to be a large, rather porous, dirty kind of "snowball", a mixture of water ice and other substances such as dry ice and molecules consisting mainly of hydrogen, carbon, oxygen and nitrogen and also some heavy elements and particles of dust.

The validity of this theory can only be tested by a space probe

sent up near the comet to take measurements. Discussions about a comet mission of this kind have been going on for some time, both in the American space research organisation NASA and the European Space Authority (ESA).

Unlike earlier missions to the moon or other planets, planning cannot always be done long term as up to 15 comets a year appear in the heavens.

Some of these, and unfortunately these are the most interesting scientifically, come near the sun only once and then disappear again.

The comet mission will therefore have to concentrate on comets which reappear at regular intervals short intervals in known orbits.

Halley's comet reappears at 76-year intervals. It will make its next appearance near the sun in 1986, the last opportunity this century to visit a bright and active comet with a space probe. This is why scientists are concentrating their efforts on Halley's comet.

Before the probe is launched, a smaller probe will be

Halley's comet in May 1910

launched towards the comet itself and during its four-hour flight will measure all the scientifically relevant facts about the comet: the chemical composition of the gas cover, its density and temperature, the size and composition of the dust particles, the strength and direction of the magnetic field, etc.

The larger probe will continue its flight. It will be aiming to rendezvous with another comet (Tempel 2) which it will reach in 1988, and will observe this comet for about a year.

Tempel 2 returns every 5.3 years and is a typical short-period comet. It will be possible to make a detailed examination of the comet proper.

The combined mission is almost ideal in conception, as the flight to Halley's comet will hardly require extra fuel. However, a start will have to be made by August 1985 at the latest.

Interest in this comet mission is so great in Europe that ESA decided to look into the possibilities of taking part.

The Europeans want to build the small probe which will investigate the centre of the comet. European and American scientists would have equal say in each probe.

This is an opportunity part at relatively low cost which the European moment have neither the nor the technology to

alone. For the rendezvous comet, an ion engine is used. The energy of the sun and can thus accelerate it during the entire flight manoeuvre. Development work on this new kind of motor is not yet completed.

The success of this would immensely add knowledge of the nature of the origin and thus of the planetary system.

Up until now, the A Congress has not spent expenditure on the ion which is listed in the 1981

Unless it changes its the concept will have changed and space scientists have to devise a less a project.

Details of experim being carried out--partly national cooperation--which a number of German states are involved, are available.

But it can already be the scientific value of the involving the examination very different kinds of com probably be compared those of the largest space to date.

The pictures beamed probably be more sp than those of the active on to, one of the scenes of

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